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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:
Walid N. Aboul-Hosn et al	: DECISION ON PETITIONS
Application No. 09/889,442	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND
Filed: December 9, 2002	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. 9261-16828-PCTUS	:

This is a decision on the petition filed August 9, 2004, which is being treated under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional and nonprovisional applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(I) and 1.78(a)(5)(I) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition fails to comply with item (1) above.

The amendment states that the instant application claims priority to provisional Application No. 60/115,786, filed January 13, 1999. However, as the instant application was filed on December 9, 2002, it is improper for this application to claim direct priority to the provisional application since it was not filed within twelve (12) months of the filing date thereof.

It is noted that intermediate Application No. 09/462,656 was filed within twelve (12) months of the above-noted provisional application. However, in reviewing Office database computer records, there is no indication that Application No. 09/462,656 claims priority to the provisional application. Petitioner is advised that, where an application claims a benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of a chain of applications, the application must make a reference to the first (earliest) application and every intermediate application. See Sampson v. Ampex Corp., 463 F.2d 1042, 1044-45, 174 USPQ 417, 418-19 (2d Cir. 1972); Sticker Indus. Supply Corp. V. Blaw-Knox Co., 405 F.2d 90, 93, 160 USPQ 177, 179 (7th Cir. 1968); Hovlid v. Asari, 305 F.2d 747, 751, 134 USPQ 162, 165 (9th Cir. 1962). See also MPEP § 201.11. In addition, every intermediate application must also make a reference to the first (earliest) application and every application after the first application and before such intermediate application. MPEP Section 201.06(d).

Accordingly, before the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) can be granted, a renewed petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) correcting the above matters is required.

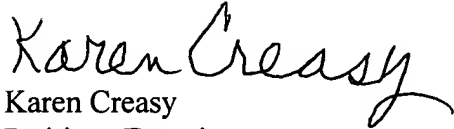
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Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Creasy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Karen Creasy

Petitions Examiner

Office of Petitions

Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy